

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 024567  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:KPGARLAND:JJ

APPROVED BY AF:WCHARROP

AF/E:RPOST

S/S-O :SRPVALERGA

-----095159 310144Z /64

O 310118Z JAN 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 024567

EXDIS ; ADDIS FOR CHARGE ONLY; VALLETTA FOR MOOSE ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ET, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR AYALEW RESIGNS

1. AMBASSADOR AYALEW CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARROP JANUARY 30 TO ANNOUNCE THAT HE HAD RESIGNED HIS POST WITH REGRET AND FOR PERSONAL REASONS. HE STATED THAT NONE OF HIS FAMILY HAD WANTED HIM TO RETURN TO ETHIOPIA WHEN HE WAS CALLED HOME LAST WEEK. HOWEVER, HE HAD WANTED TO GET THE OPINION OF SOME ETHIOPIANS OTHER THAN RELATIVES IN ADDIS. SO HE PROCEEDED TO ROME AND MADE TEN CALLS TO ETHIOPIANS IN ADDIS AND IN EUROPE. THE UNIVERSAL REACTION WAS THAT HE SHOULD NOT RETURN HOME. MOST ADVISED HIM THAT THE GROUP OF PRO-SOVIET DIRG MEMBERS COALESCED AROUND 2ND LT. LEGESSE WANTED TO KILL HIM.

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2. AYALEW STATED HE DID NOT WANT TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF HIS RESIGNATION EITHER HERE OR IN ADDIS. HE EXPRESSED THE WISH THAT AT THIS DELICATE STAGE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HIS RESIGNATION NOT BE ALLOWED TO BE A GROUND FOR UNNECESSARY PRESS OR POLITICAL SPECULATION. HE INTENDS TO BEGIN QUIETLY ADJUSTING TO LIFE HERE AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN. HE DOES NOT INTEND TO ASK FOR POLITI-

CAL ASYLUM BUT HE DID ASK FOR ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING

PERMISSION TO STAY WITH INS.

3. AMBASSADOR AYALEW REQUESTED THAT HIS RESIGNATION BE CLOSELY HELD WHILE HE FINISHED HIS PERSONAL ARRANGEMENTS. WE INTEND TO HOLD THIS INFORMATION VERY CLOSELY FOR OUR OWN OBVIOUS REASONS AS WELL. AYALEW INFORMED EPMG BY CABLE 29 JAN.

4. AYALEW HAS NO HINT OF MENGISTU'S REACTION TO THE SPECIAL MESSAGE WHICH IS CONFIRMED TO HAVE BEEN DELIVERED.

5. WE HAVE FIRM ASSURANCE NO RPT NO SHIPMENT OF ETHIOPIAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT SCHEDULED BEFORE FEBRUARY 13 AT EARLIEST SO WE HAVE A LITTLE MORE TIME. VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AMBASSADORS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE024567  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** KPGARLAND:JJ  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PDIP, ET, US, (AYALEW MANDEFRO)  
**To:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014